

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3384

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: SEJM APPROVES GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, MINISTERIAL CHANGES

REF: WARSAW 3239 (NOTAL); KRAKOW A-16, MAY 28, 1975

1. SUMMARY: THE SEJM ON MAY 28 APPROVED LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING A SWEEPING LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM EFFECTIVE JUNE 1. IT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED PROPOSALS ADOPTED AT THE PZPR SEVENTEENTH PLENUM MAY 12 BY ENACTING LEGISLATION TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION AND IN LAWS CONCERNING THE PEOPLES'S COUNCILS, TO INTRODUCE A TWO-LEVAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT BASED ON 49 PROVINCES, AND TO CREATE A NEW MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION, LOCAL ECONOMY, AND ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION WHICH WILL HAVE A KEY ROLE IN SUPERVISING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL UNITS. IT ALSO APPROVED NOMINATIONS OF A NEW VICE PREMIER AND THREE NEW MINISTERS, AS THE PERSONNEL SHUFFLING EXPECTED IN
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CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENTAL REFORMS AND THE UPCOMING SEVENTH

PARTY CONGRESS GATHERS MOMENTUM. END SUMMARY.

2. OUTLINING THE REFORM'S RATIONALE, PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ TOLD THE SEJM THAT THE "HISTORIC" CHANGES HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PREPARED WITH BROAD CONSULTATION OF PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OPINION. HE DEPICTED THEM AS A LOGICAL THIRD AND FINAL STAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IMPLEMENTING SIXTH CONGRESS DIRECTIVES WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO IMPROVE AND DECENTRALIZE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS. HE SAID THIS REFORM WILL BRING GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE AND ADAPT IT TO VAST SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CHANGES ALREADY ACHIEVED, AND IT WILL PRODUCE A STREAMLINED GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE CAPABLE OF IMPLEMENTING THE AMBITIOUS GOALS OF THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN. WITHOUT BELITTling THE PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE, THE PREMIER WARNED THAT THE

REFORM MUST BE CARRIED OUT URGENTLY WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO ONGOING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE MINISTERIAL CHANGES APPROVED BY THE SEJM GENERALLY FOLLOW EXPECTED LINES. ALOJZY KARKOSZKA WAS NAMED VICE PREMIER, PRESUMABLY FILLING THE VACANCY LEFT BY MITREGA'S REMOVAL LAST FEBRUARY. ADAM GLAZUR, WHO HAS SERVED AS A VICE MINISTER SINCE 1969, WILL MOVE UP TO REPLACE KARKOSZKA AS MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY.

4. AS EXPECTED, TADEUSZ BEJM, FORMER GDANSK PARTY FIRST SECRETARY, WILL TAKE OVER THE REVAMPED MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION, LOCAL ECONOMY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. JERZY KUSIAK, WHOM BEJM REPLACED, WILL GO TO A POSITION IN THE PARTY APPARATUS, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE BOTH KUSIAK AND BEJM ON MANY OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS IN THEIR PRESENT AND PREVIOUS POSITIONS. BEJM HAS ALWAYS STRUCK US AS CLEARLY MORE DYNAMIC AND ABLE THAN KUSIAK. HE IS ALSO YOUNGER AND CONSIDERABLY MORE CHARMING. HE STRIKES US AS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR THE NEW, ENLARGED MINISTRY, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION. ONE SOURCE TOLD US KUSIAK WILL BE APPOINTED PARTY FIRST SECRETARY OF ONE OF THE NEW WOJEWODZTWOS. END COMMENT.

5. THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER RZESZOW FIRST SECRETARY JERZY GAWRYSIAK TO REPLACE EDWARD SZNAJDER AS MINISTER OF DOMESTIC
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TRADE AND SERVICES ALSO FOLLOWS THE SCENARIO WE REPORTED IN REFTEL.

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